

WONDERFUL LIFE STORY OF A PIONEER OF TEXAS

DIED ON THE IDENTICAL SPOT WHERE HE SETTLED FIFTY-TWO YEARS BEFORE.

Joel G. Larison Lived Under Three Flags and Saw Another Fall.

Last Forty-two Years of His Eventful Life He Was Totally Blind.



Here is the story of a wonderful old Texas to whom, during his lifetime, came many experiences not usually allotted to man.

His name was Joel G. Larison and he died at Madisonville, Madison county, Texas, on January 31 of the present year. During the seventy-nine years that had elapsed since September 3, 1821, when he was born, he lived under three different flags and he saw another fall.

Without changing his place of residence he lived successfully in three counties. He was married four times. His fourth wife and the son she bore him, he never saw, nor did he ever see his third wife after his marriage to her. He became afflicted with total blindness three years before the breaking out of the civil war and during the last forty-two years of his life he lived in darkness.

Before the sun ceased to shine for him he saw a glorious liberty wrested from Mexican despotism by the sturdy pioneers who had left the old States to seek freedom and fortune in the broad land of Texas.

He saw what was at first a wild and rugged country, the people of which were struggling under the iron heel of the dark-skinned tyrants who lived across the Rio Grande, develop into an independent republic, where honest, God-fearing people built happy homes and led peaceful, contented lives. He saw that republic become a part of the great United States.

He saw, perhaps, before the darkness came to him in 1838, some of the things that foretold the bloody civil strife, which commenced three years later. And then, before he died, he heard the echoes of another war in which the Stars and Stripes brought liberty to dusky people across the sea, and he knew, although he could not see, of the wonderful changes which had taken place in his native land since those days, long years ago, when a light-hearted, happy youth, he had roamed the Texas forests in search of wild game, had protected his loved ones from the Mexican and the Indian and had, perhaps, dreamed of what the future held for him.

Before he crossed the dark river to rest forever in the shade of the trees on the other side, he knew that the rough wood-

land paths he had trod in his boyhood had been converted into bands of steel over which millions of dollars worth of merchandise was annually carried between the bustling, prosperous cities and towns which had taken the place of the rough frontier settlements he had known in the old days.

He saw, in short, a wonderful advance of that great influence called civilization, such as falls to the lot of but few men to witness.

Joel G. Larison was born on September 3, 1821, at a point which is now in the extreme northeastern corner of the great State of Texas. Afterwards this place became a part of Lamar county, but as a result of the changing of lines, which has occurred during the last few years, it is now within the confines of Red River county.

He lived at the place of his birth during the first fifteen years of his life, the uneventful course of which was finally disturbed by the revolt of the brave Texans under the gallant Houston against the oppressive rule of Mexico. When only 15 years of age he shouldered his musket and took service under General Houston in the defense of his native country. He was fated not to participate in the battle of San Jacinto, where the Mexican yoke was finally and forever thrown off, having, with a part of the command to which he was attached, been sent into East Texas to protect the people of that section against the raids of a band of Indians, who were murdering and pillaging there. Before the redskins were driven off the battle of San Jacinto was fought and won and the Texan army was disbanded before young Larison and his companions were able to return to this part of the State. He was never officially mustered out of the service and as a result was never able to secure a pension from the State.

After the war, Larison returned to his home, where, on June 21, 1847, he married Miss Mary Lawrence, who died nineteen years later. The fruits of this marriage were five children, two of whom—Mrs. Emma Horton and Mrs. Mattie Wright—are still living. Mrs. Wright is now a resident of Madison county. In 1848 Larison, then in the prime of a

vigorous young manhood, left his old home and settled on Larison creek at a point about eight miles from the present town of Madisonville. At that time his home was in Montgomery county, but the changes which time brought about placed it afterwards in Walker county, while now it is within the lines of Madison county. Thus, as has before been stated, this wonderful old man lived successfully in three different counties without changing the place of his residence.

It was in 1858 that Larison became afflicted with total blindness, which malady successfully resisted the efforts to restore the old man's sight up to the time of his death last month. It was this fact which prevented him from participating in the civil war and thus adding another chapter to his interesting career.

After the death of his first wife Larison was married three times. He never saw his fourth wife and his sight never rested on the child which the latter bore him. This child grew to manhood and died in 1898, leaving a wife and a son. The lady who was his third wife he had known previous to the time he was afflicted with blindness. She is still living.

The old man died in the Methodist faith, having been a member of the Methodist church for many years. From 1821 to 1836 Larison lived under Mexican rule; from 1836 until 1846 his allegiance was to the Republic of Texas; after that until his death he was a citizen of the State of Texas and of the great United States, with the exception of the period occupied by the civil war.

He died on the identical spot at which he settled in 1848, having lived there continuously for fifty-two years.

GIDDINGS NEWS NOTES.

The Commissioners Court Reduced the Rate of Taxation. Giddings, Texas, February 16.—The commissioners court convened last Monday and is still in session, owing to the large amount of business on hand requiring attention. As a result of the excellent financial condition of the county the commissioners have reduced the rate of taxation for the ensuing year. The tax levy made is as follows: One-fifth of 1 per cent for general purposes, 1/4 of 1 per cent for

roads and bridges and 11 cents on the \$100 valuation for the court house fund. A brief resume of the financial condition of the county shows a taxable valuation of over \$3,000,000; that there is \$324 cash on hand to the credit of the general fund, and \$5000 cash on hand to the credit of the road and bridge fund. The bonded indebtedness of the county amounts to \$50,000, that sum being for the new court house.

The report of the comptroller shows that this county pays taxes on something near its full value, while some of the rich counties pay on only about 40 per cent of their value. Mr. Brown of Moulton is here soliciting contracts for electric lights and says that if he can get contracts for as many as 500 lights he will put in a plant. If that is all that stands in the way of Giddings having electricity for lighting purposes it is safe to predict that another enterprise will soon be launched here. Giddings is rapidly developing into a commercial center and such an enterprise can only bring profit to the investor.

Mrs. L. V. Russell will have a residence erected just as soon as the carpenter can reach the job, they are all overcrowded with work now. Mr. Harry Knox and Miss Julia Bryan were married last night at the Presbyterian church. Dr. J. W. Montgomery officiating. The church was appropriately decorated for the occasion and a large number of friends and relatives were in attendance. The groom is the son of W. A. Knox, one of the oldest merchants of Giddings, and one of the first families of Lee county. The bride is the granddaughter of Moses Austin Bryan. Giddings will be their future home.

Judge Sinks is at Bastrop trying the habeas corpus case of Ed Reese. J. L. Drenett of Dime Box spent all of last week and the first part of this week at Austin as a juror in the Federal court. Mr. A. B. Green of Houston has been here the past few days closing out some local sales.

Messrs. Louis and Robbie Knox came down from the university yesterday afternoon to attend the Knox-Bryan nuptials.

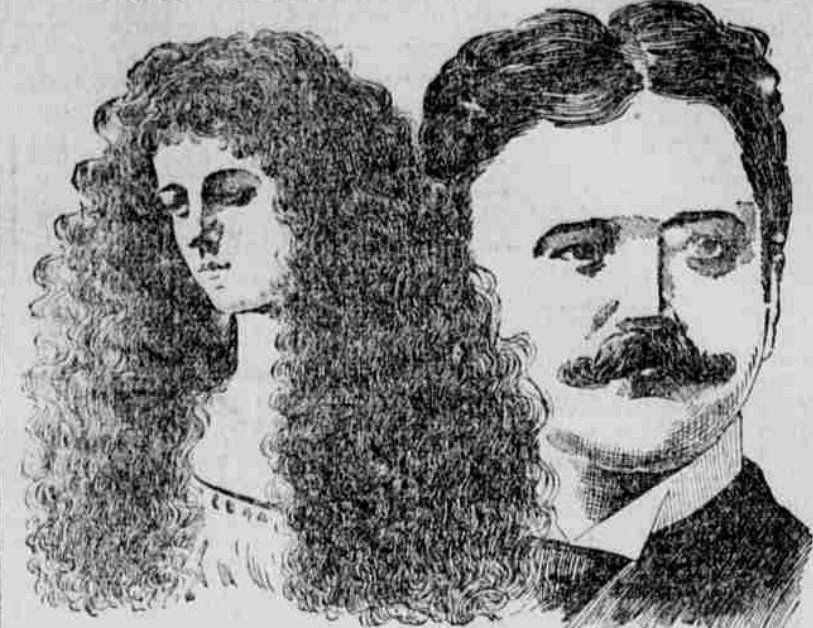
Mrs. Lina of Brenham has bought the residence of Mr. Ed Raube and will move here to reside in a few days. If the reader of this should chance to know of any one who is subject to attacks of bilious colic he can do him no greater favor than to tell him of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It always gives prompt relief. For sale by all druggists.

Everything pertaining to saddlery and harness. A. H. Hess & Co., 305 Travis street.

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Prevents Hair Falling Out, Removes Dandruff, Restores Prematurely Gray Hair to Natural Color, Stops Itching and Restores Luxuriant Growth to Eyebrows, Eyelashes and Shining Scalps.

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Mlle. Riva.

Famous French Contralto.

Those who are losing their hair or have parted with their locks can have it restored by a remedy that is sent free to all. A Cincinnati firm has concluded that the best way to convince people that hair can be grown on any head is to let them try it, and see for themselves. All sorts of theories have been advanced to account for falling hair, but after all, it is the remedy we are after and not the theory. People who need more hair, or are anxious to save what they have, or from sickness, dandruff or other causes have lost their hair should at once send their name and address to the Allenburgh Medical Dispensary, 1050 Butterfield building, Cincinnati, Ohio, enclosing a recent stamp in cover postage, and they will forward prepaid by mail, a sufficient free trial package of their remedy to fully prove its remarkable action in quickly removing all traces of dandruff and scalp diseases and forcing a new growth of hair.

Mlle. Riva, 117 Avenue des Champs Elysees, the famous Parisian contralto, whose wonderfully luxuriant tresses add charm to the bewitching personality says: "I procured a set of the Pazo remedies while touring the States and they actually caused my hair to grow again. We have in Paris such a bewildering array of hair dressings it seems strange we must go to the States for one that will make the hair grow. I had for several years been losing my hair, had tried everything, and was finally obliged to wear

GEO. N. THATCHER.

Prominent Railway Official.

"I was getting so bald and such a shining mark for my friends that I was forced into using hair remedies. I tried a dozen or more before I ran across the Pazo treatment and am glad to say that I was well rewarded. My entire scalp is now thickly covered with long dark hair of the natural shade and I have beyond question that the Pazo remedies caused this result. I do not hesitate to lend my name and influence to these thoroughly trustworthy hair growers."

Write today for a free trial package. It will be mailed securely sealed in a plain wrapper so that it may be tried privately at home. The remedy also cures itching and dandruff, stops signs of approaching baldness and keeps the scalp healthy and vigorous. It also restores gray hair to natural color and produces thick and lustrous eye brows and eyelashes. By sending your name and address to the Allenburgh Medical Dispensary, 1050 Butterfield building, Cincinnati, Ohio, enclosing a 2-cent stamp to cover postage, they will mail you prepaid a free trial of their remarkable remedy.

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MILTON WAS BLIND

because his eyesight was destroyed. But there are none so blind as those who have eyes and will not see. Our exhibit at the late F. F. and V. F. was conspicuously the "reward of merit," and yet we are often asked why it was that we did not get the first prize for the best points and lighting. So our certificate reads at the F. F. and V. F. of 1898. With our State and National "awards" WE LEAD. HITCHLER.

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